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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Fulbright Shows His Skill Again

By Drew Pearson

The significant thing about the recent Fulbright full-dress speech on United States foreign policy is that its author has an almost perfect score on foreign affairs.

Whatever his defects on domestic policy—and they are many—the senior Senator from Arkansas has never gone wrong in his diagnosis of foreign policy and his remedies for our foreign mistakes. This is what makes his current prodding of his old friend Lyndon Johnson regarding Cuba, Panama and the Cold War myth so important.

Fulbright was the only Senator who was both smart enough to find out about the Bay of Pigs operation in advance and wise enough to argue with President Kennedy until he was blue in the face to try to stop it.

He was farsighted enough to initiate the Fulbright scholarships which have educated thousands of youngsters and contributed to better understanding around the world. And he was one of the early pioneers in molding a more effective Voice of America and United States Information Service.

He was also the most effective needler of John Foster



Pearson

Dulles at a time when the late Secretary of State was inclined to feed the American public soothing syrup regarding Russia. Fulbright exposed the phyness of brinkmanship and of Dulles's out-of-date shibboleth of massive retaliation.

Spurring Mr. Dulles

Perhaps Fulbright's greatest contribution was in trying to alert the Nation at a time when the Soviet was forging far ahead of us in sputniks, was making political progress in the Near East, and was pushing its own educational system to the point where it brought frank and surprised admiration from U.S. educators.

"Mr. Secretary," Fulbright told John Foster Dulles in November, 1957, "unless you come up here with some sense of urgency, you can never get your program through Congress. You cite the fact that Marshall Zhukov has been fired as a sign of Russian weakness. On the contrary that means they are so confident of their position they don't hesitate to fire their top military man."

"You point out that Russia makes 100,000 automobiles while we make 6 million" continued Fulbright. "Maybe they don't need 6 million automobiles a year in Russia. Maybe they are better off with 100,000 automobiles a year. Maybe our children would be better off with fewer automobiles, and studying in school the way

Russian children are studying."

Again on Jan. 12, 1958, Fulbright made a speech as revolutionary as that which he made last week. He was far ahead of the State Department—but this time in warning it to wake up.

"The peril of the Nation increases daily because of the way the incumbent Administration has dulled and continued to dull the Nations awareness of the danger it faces."

"The walls of Moscow," said Fulbright, on another occasion, "are not like the walls of Jericho. They will not come tumbling down even with statements by John Foster Dulles. We cannot win the battle for freedom if we keep our heads buried in the sand of ignorance."

Fulbright's goading, plus the Rockefeller brothers' report, plus the Gaither report, plus such books as "USA Second Class Power?" did succeed in waking up the United States. As a result, we are now in a position of great missile and nuclear strength.

Changes in Soviet Bloc

Simultaneously, conditions have changed inside the Communist world. The two most powerful members of that world are engaged in a deathly battle which shows no signs of being patched up. Simultaneously the one-time satellite countries are showing more independence of Moscow and

more friendship toward the United States. Yugoslavia and Rumania have voted with the United States and against Russia inside the United Nations. Yugoslavia participates in the peacekeeping armies of the U.N. which Moscow spurns.

Simultaneously, the Russian people themselves have become more democratic, more critical of their government, more open to outside ideas, more friendly toward the United States.

These are things which Sen. Fulbright has carefully watched and which were behind the challenge he laid down to the inherited foreign policy of his old friend, Lyndon Johnson, and the State Department last week. It was one of the most important foreign policy statements made by any Senator in this decade, as will be discussed further in this column Thursday.

Headlines and Footnotes

President Johnson kept in touch with the Senate's preliminary voting on civil rights while he was flying to Texas for Easter. The vote to bring up the civil rights bill for formal debate was reported to him at once by radio-telephone from the White House to his plane in flight... The Panama crisis hasn't slowed up the traffic through the Panama Canal. Since the outbreak of violence, more ships have passed through the canal than at any comparative period in history.

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